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09/719,609	12/13/2000	Robert G. Schwartz	770P009579-U	3376
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PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			BASS, JON M	
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			3639	

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/719,609	SCHWARTZ ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jon Bass	3639	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

**Status Claims**

1. Applicant has amended claims 1,13,21,28,32,38,50,64 and 67.  
Currently claims 1-72 are pending in this application.

**Response to Amendment**

2. Applicant arguments filed on January 23, 2006 have been fully considered but are not found to be persuasive.
3. Applicant argues, with regard to claims 1-5, 9-72 that Haines fails to disclose verifying, when the franking system is in a franking mode. The Examiner notes that Haines does disclose that in figure 3, also see details for figure 3, that the meter is in configuration mode then the meter enters mode by changing mode register, which leads to the meter displaying the needed information.
4. Applicant argues, with regard to claim 1, that Haines fails to disclose that the meter must be reconfigured properly. The Examiner notes that Haines does disclose that in figure 3, also see details for figure 3, that the meter is in configuration mode then the meter enters mode by changing mode register, which leads to the meter displaying the needed information which in turn

allows the meter to display the configuration request. This suggests that the meter can be reconfigured.

5. Applicant argues, with regard to claims 13,21,28,38,50,57 and 64, that Haines fails to disclose fails to disclose or suggest a first memory for storing a first software. The Examiner notes that in figure 1, include the details from figure 1, that elements 22, and 24 pertain to the first and additional memory for storing software.
6. Applicant argues, with regard to claims 13,21,28,38,50,57 and 64, that Haines fails to disclose fails to disclose or suggest a second memory for storing identifiers. The Examiner notes that in figure 1, include the details from figure 1, that elements 22, and 24 pertain to the first and additional memory for storing software.
7. Applicant argues, with regard to claims 32, that Haines does not disclose any type of funds transaction. The Examiner notes that although the description, regarding claim 32, includes a position that deals with funds transaction it was given no weight due to the structure of the claim format. The description of the funds transaction is part of the preamble. However the Examiner notes that in column 2, lines 57-67, explains that the meter is

equipped with an accounting register for dealing with the funds transaction.

8. Applicant argues, with regard to claims 6-8, that Obrea fails to disclose or suggest a processing unit. The Examiner notes that in column 3, lines 10-15 that Obrea discloses a central processing unit that calculates the data flow.
9. For the reason set above and within the previous Office Action the rejections remain.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. **Claims 1-5, 9-72 are** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by John Haines et al (US Patent No: 5,107,455) hereinafter reference as Haines.

**As Per Claim 1:**

Haines discloses a franking system comprising:

a memory for storing a software component for generating at least one postage indicium, [{{col.3, lines 1-4}}, random access memory{RAM}, a read only memory {ROM}, battery augment memory {BAM}];

a device, [{{fig 2}}, postage meter device], operatively connected to the memory, for receiving an authorization code, [{{fig 2, 32}}, configuration enable code] which is derived from at least information concerning the software component, [{{col.2, lines 17-19}}, I/O configuration enable code]; and

a processing unit[{{fig1, 27}}, microprocessor], operatively connected to the memory and the device for receiving the authorization code, [{{fig 2, 32}}], for verifying when the franking system is in a franking mode, at least part of the authorization code for to detecting any change in the software component before the at least one postage indicium is generated, the processing unit being able to prevent generation of the at least one postage indicium if an unauthorized change in the software components is detected, [{{col.2, lines 7-10}}, the data center checks the code by computing the I/O configuration request code].

**As Per Claim 2:**

Haines disclose wherein the information represents a version number of the software component, [{fig 1, 28}, features software].

**As Per Claim 3:**

Haines discloses further comprising a counter for keeping track of the version number of the software component, [{col.6, lines 27-29}, the data center computer then increments a counter called configuration transaction identifier].

**As Per Claim 5:**

Haines discloses wherein memory locations are allocated in the memory for storing a plurality of version numbers of the software component, respectively, the version number of the software component being indicated as stored at one of the memory locations, [{fig 1, 22, 24}, ROM, RAM].

**As Per Claim 5:**

Haines discloses wherein the information is obtained from running a predetermined algorithm on code of the software component, [{col.2, lines 11-12, configuration request code using algorithm].

**As Per Claim 9:**

Haines discloses further comprising a computer, [{col.2, lines 8}, data center computer] where, containing the memory for storing a software component, [{col.3, lines 5-6}, storing information like software] wherein the authorization codes also derived from an identity of the computer, [{col.4, lines 1-4, dependent upon meter serial number}].

**As Per Claim 10:**

Haines discloses wherein the identity of the computer includes a serial number thereof, [{col.4, lines 1-4}, dependent upon meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 11:**

Haines discloses further comprising a postal security device (PSD) containing the processing unit, for verifying at least part of the authorization code, wherein the authorization code is also derived from an identity of the PSD, [{col.2, lines 7-9}, configuration request code is communicated to data center computer with validating identification information].

**As Per Claim 12:**

Haines discloses wherein the identity of the 20 PSD includes a serial number thereof, [{col.4, lines 1-4}, dependent upon meter serial number].



**As Per Claim 13:**

Haines discloses a franking system comprising:

a memory for storing a software component generating at least one postage indicium, [{fig 1, 22, 24, 28}, features software, ROM, RAM];

a buffer, operatively connected to the memory, for storing an authorization code which is derived from at least information concerning a configuration of the system, [{fig 1, 24}, intermediate storage]; and

a processing unit, operatively connected to the memory and buffer, for verifying when the franking system is in a franking mode at least part of the authorization code before the at least one postage indicium is generated for detecting any unauthorized change in the configuration of franking system, the processing unit being able to prevent generation of the at least one postage indicium by the software component if an unauthorized change in the configuration of the franking system is detected, [{abstract}, the technique provides security so that any change to the feature is authorized].

**As Per Claim 14:**

Haines discloses further comprising software components for providing

feature options in the system which are selectively enabled, wherein the configuration concerns at least a setting of the feature options, [{fig 1, 28}, feature software and {fig 2, 32}, configuration request code and obtains configuration enable code].

**As Per Claim 15:**

Haines discloses wherein the configuration concerns at least a version of the software component, [{{fig 1, 28} and {fig 2, 30}}].

**As Per Claim 16:**

Haines discloses further comprising a device for maintaining a postage fund for postage dispensation in the system, wherein the processing unit is within the device, [{col.2, lines 66-68}, microprocessor includes functions accounting for postage].

**As Per Claim 17:**

Haines discloses wherein the authorization code is also derived from an identity of the device, [{col.4, lines 1-4}, dependent upon meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 18:**

Haines discloses wherein the identity of the device includes a serial number thereof, [{col.4, lines 1-4}, dependent upon meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 19:**

Haines discloses further comprising a computer, [{col.2, lines 8, data center computer}] containing the memory for storing a software component , wherein the authorization code is also derived from an

identity of the computer, [{col.4, lines 1-4}, dependent upon meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 20:**

Haines discloses wherein the identity of the computer includes a serial number thereof, [{col.4, lines 1-4}, dependent upon meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 21:**

Haines discloses a franking system for generation of postage indicia, the system having a plurality of feature options which may be enabled, the system comprising:

a device for receiving an authorization code, the authorization code being generated outside the system in response to a request for changing a selected setting of the feature options to a new setting different from a current setting thereof, the request being generated within the system for the authorization co comprising a code segment and a data segment, the code segment being derived from at least information concerning the selected setting of the feature options, the data segment containing data concerning one or more of the feature options, [{fig 1, see details}, external device in communication with moter}}];

a buffer, operably connected to the device for receiving an authorization code the authorization code for effecting the change of the selected setting to the new setting of the feature options based on

the data contained in the data segment, [{fig 1, see details},  
external device in communication with moter}}];

a processing unit, operably connected to the buffer and the device  
for receiving an the authorization code the processing unit being able to  
verify while the system is in a franking mode, for verifying the code  
segment to determine whether generation of postage indicia based on the  
new setting of the feature options is allowed, [{fig 1, 27},  
microprocessor].

**As Per Claim 22:**

Haines discloses wherein the data includes the information  
concerning the current setting of the feature options, [{col.2, lines 7-  
10}, request code is communicated to a data center].

**As Per Claim 23:**

Haines discloses wherein the data is encrypted, [{col.2, lines 12-14},  
data center computer generates an encrypted I/O configuration].

**As Per Claim 24:**

Haines discloses wherein the change in the selected setting of  
the feature options involves changing one or more of the feature  
options, with respect to the current setting of the feature options,  
the length of the data segment being a function of a quantity of the  
one or more of the feature options, [{col.4, lines 25-28}, reconfigure  
the desired options].

**As Per Claim 25:**

Haines discloses wherein the data indicates memory addresses which are associated with the one or more of the feature options, respectively, a value being stored at each memory address and the feature option associated with the memory address is changed to the value, [{fig 1, 24}, intermediate storage].

**As Per Claim 26:**

Haines discloses wherein the data includes offset memory addresses which are associated with the one or more of the feature options, respectively, [{fig 1, 24}, intermediate storage].

**As Per Claim 27:**

Haines discloses wherein the data identifies the one or more of the feature options, [{fig 3, see details}].

**As Per Claim 28:**

Haines discloses wherein a franking system comprising:  
a first memory for storing a first software component and a second software component, the first software component being able to generate at least one postage indicium, the second software component includes a selected identifier and is able to interact with the first software component, [{fig 1, 28}, feature software];

a second memory, operably connected to the first memory, for storing a plurality of identifiers, [{{fig 1, 22}}, ROM]; and

a processing unit, operably connected to the first and second memories, for determining while the franking system is in a franking mode whether one of the plurality of identifiers corresponds to the selected identifier in the second software component when the second software component interacts with the first software component, the processing unit allowing the at least one postage indicium being generated only when one of the plurality of identifiers corresponds to the selected identifier, [{{fig 1, 27}}].

**As Per Claim 29:**

Haines discloses wherein further comprising a device for maintaining a postage fund for postage dispensation in the system, wherein the second memory is within the device, [{{col.2, lines 60-64}}, accounting register].

**As Per Claim 30:**

Haines discloses wherein the system wherein the selected identifier identifies the second software component, [{{fig 1, 28}}, see details about feature software].

**As Per Claim 31:**

Haines discloses the system of further comprising at least one hardware component, wherein the second software component includes

utility software for interfacing the first software component with the at least one hardware component, [{fig 1, 28}, see details about feature software].

**As Per Claim 32:**

Haines discloses and a system for reconfiguring a franking apparatus for generating postage indicia, the franking apparatus including a device for maintaining a postage fund for postage dispensation in the franking apparatus, the system comprising:

A memory for storing a value of an account for replenishing the postage fund the postage fund being stored within a memory of the franking apparatus, [{fig 1, 22}, ROM]

a processor operably connected to the memory, for reconfiguring the franking apparatus, a reconfiguration of the franking apparatus incurring a reconfiguration cost, that is separate form the postage fund, the reconfiguration cost being debited from the account for replenishing the postage fund wherein, a value of the postage fund stored within the memory of franking apparatus is unaffected by the reconfiguration, [{fig 1, 27}, microprocessor].

**As Per Claim 33:**

Haines discloses the system wherein the franking apparatus is remotely reconfigured through a communication connection, [{abstract}, external devices in communication with postage meters].

**As Per Claim 34:**

Haines discloses the system of wherein the reconfiguration of the franking apparatus concerns at least a setting of feature options in the franking apparatus, [{{abstract}}, external device has a feature set].

**As Per Claim 35:**

Haines discloses the system wherein the reconfiguration of the franking apparatus concerns at least a version of a software component in the franking apparatus, [{{abstract}}, external device has feature set selectively enabled or disabled by software].

**As Per Claim 36:**

Haines discloses the system of wherein the memory also stores information concerning a current configuration of the franking apparatus, [{{fig 1, 24}}, intermediate storage].

**As Per Claim 37:**

Haines discloses the system of wherein the processor causes transmission of a menu to the franking apparatus for the reconfiguration thereof, the menu being generated based on the information, [{{fig 1, 27}}, microprocessor].

**As Per Claim 38:**



Haines discloses a method for use in a franking system comprising:

storing a software component for generating at least one postage indicium, [{fig 1, 28}, feature software];

receiving an authorization code which is derived from at least information concerning the software component, [{col.5, lines 47-48}, authorization]; and

verifying when the franking system is in a franking mode, at least part of the authorization code to detect any unauthorized change in the software component before the at least one postage indicium is generated, the generation of the at least one postage indicium by the software component being prevented if an unauthorized change in the software component is detected, [{col.4, lines 42-45}, prevents unauthorized personal from entering the I/O configuration].

**As Per Claim 39:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the information represents a version number of the software component, [{abstract}, configuration enable code depends on the serial number].

**As Per Claim 40:**

Haines discloses the method further comprising keeping track of the version number of the software component 25 using a counter in the system, [{col.2, lines 5-10}, based on the meter serial number which is communicated to the meter which receives the configuration code].

**As Per Claim 41:**

Haines discloses the method of further comprising allocating memory locations to store a plurality of version numbers of the software component, respectively, the version number of the software component being indicated as stored at one of the memory locations, [{fig 1, 24}, see details intermediate storage].

**As Per Claim 42:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the information is obtained from running a predetermined algorithm on code of the software component, [{col.2, lines 18-20}, encryption algorithm as the data center computer].

**As Per Claim 43:**

Haines discloses the method of claim 42 wherein the information includes error checking information, [{col.6, lines 5-10}, If hey do not match, the meter has been improperly reconfigured or error occurred then terminate transaction].

**As Per Claim 44:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the error checking information includes CRC bits, [{col.6, lines 5-10}, If hey do not match, the meter has been improperly reconfigured or error occurred then terminate transaction].

**As Per Claim 45:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the error checking information includes a checksum, [{col.6, lines 5-10}, If hey do not match, the meter has been improperly reconfigured or error occurred then terminate transaction].

**As Per Claim 46:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the authorization code is also derived from an identity of a computer in the system, [{col.5, lines 47-48}, agents authorization code, which is password to the data center computer].

**As Per Claim 47:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the identity of the computer includes a serial number thereof, [{col.6, lines 8-10}, meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 48:**

Haines discloses the method of claim 38 wherein the authorization code is also derived from an identity of a PSD in the system, [{col.6, lines 8-10}, meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 49:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the identity of the PSD includes a serial number thereof, [{col.6, lines 8-10}, meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 50:**

Haines discloses a method for use in a franking system comprising:

Storing a software component for generating at least one postage indicium, [{fig 1, 22} ROM].

storing an authorization code which is derived from at least information concerning a configuration of the system, [{abstract}, encrypted configuration request code]; and

verifying when the franking system is in a franking mode at least part of the authorization code before the at least one postage indicium is generated to detect any unauthorized change in the configuration of the franking system, generation of the at least one postage indicium by the software component being prevented if an unauthorized change in the configuration of the franking system is detected. [{abstract}, configuration code communication to center with validation identification information].

**As Per Claim 51:**

Haines discloses the method of further comprising providing feature options in the system which are selectively enabled, wherein

the configuration concerns at least a setting of the feature options, [{col.4, lines 27-29}, meter reconfigured to options].

**As Per Claim 52:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the configuration concerns at least a version of the software component, [{col.4, lines 28-30}, I/O configurations enable code into meter].

**As Per Claim 53:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the authorization code is also derived from an identity of a device for maintaining a postage fund for postage dispensation in the system, [{col.8, lines 66-68}, externally generated I/O configuration codes for storing configuration numbers].

**As Per Claim 54:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the identity of the device includes a serial number thereof, [{col.6, lines 8-10}, meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 55:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the authorization code is also derived from an identity of a computer, [{col.7, lines 62-65}, the number of digit needed for security].

**As Per Claim 56:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the identity of the computer includes a serial number thereof, [{col.6, lines 8-10}, meter serial number].

**As Per Claim 57:**

Haines discloses A method for use in a franking system for generation of postage indicia, the system having a plurality of feature options which may be enabled, the method comprising:

receiving an authorization code, the authorization code being generated outside the system in response to a request for changing a selected setting of the feature options to a new setting different from a current setting thereof, the request being generated within the system the authorization code comprising a code segment and a data segment, the code segment being derived from at least information concerning the selected setting of the feature options, the data segment containing data concerning one or more of the feature options, [{col.8, lines 66-68}, I/O configuration codes for storing the new I/O configuration number in register];

effecting the change of the selected setting of the feature options to the new setting of the feature options based on the data contained in the, [{col.12, lines 15-17}, validating means acting further to set the mode register]; and

verifying, while the system is in a franking mode the code segment to determine whether generation of postage indicia based on the new setting of

the feature options is allowed, [{col.12, lines 15-17}, validating means acting further to set the mode register].

**As Per Claim 58:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the data includes the information concerning the setting of the feature options, [col.12, lines 1-3}, configuration code depends values depends values on configuration number].

**As Per Claim 59:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the data is encrypted, [{col.12, lines 3-5}, encrypted generated I/O configuration].

**As Per Claim 60:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the selected setting of the feature options involves changing one or more of the feature options, with respect to the current setting of the feature options, the length 'of the data segment being a function of a quantity of the one or more of the feature options, [{fig 3, 42}, meter enters mode by changing mode register].

**As Per Claim 61:**

Haines discloses The method of claim 60 wherein the data indicates memory addresses which are associated with the one or more of the feature options, respectively, a value being stored at each memory

address and the feature option associated with the memory address is changed to the value, [fig 3, 48], meter stores new I/O.

**As Per Claim 62:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the data includes offset memory addresses which are associated with the one or more of the feature options, respectively, [fig 1], see details].

**As Per Claim 63:**

Haines discloses wherein the data identifies the one or more of the feature options, [fig 2], see details, reconfiguration].

**As Per Claim 64:**

Haines discloses wherein the method for use in a franking system comprising:

storing a first software component in a first memory for generating at least one postage indicium, [see figure 1 and it's details]].

Storing a second software component in a first memory, the second software component including a selected identifier, [see figure 1]

Storing a plurality of identifier and is able to interact with the first software components; in a second memory, {see figure 1}.

Determining while the franking system is in a franking mode' whether one of the plurality of identifiers corresponds to the selected



identifier in the second software component when the second software component interacts with the first software component, {see figure 1}

Generating the at least one postage indicium when one of the plurality of identifiers corresponds to the selected identifier, [{col.2, lines 65-68}, printing and accounting for postage].

**As Per Claim 65:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the selected key identifies the second software component, [{fig 1}, software].

**As Per Claim 66:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the second software component includes utility software for interfacing the first software component with at least one hardware component in the system, [{fig 1}, features software].

**As Per Claim 67:**

Haines discloses a method for reconfiguring a franking apparatus for generating postage indicia, the franking apparatus including a device for maintaining a postage fund for postage dispensation in the franking apparatus, the method comprising, [{col.2, lines 1-2}, printing postage]:

storing a value of an account for replenishing the postage fund the postage fund being stored in a memory of the franking apparatus, [{fig 1} ROM];

reconfiguring the franking apparatus, the reconfiguring of the franking apparatus incurring reconfiguration cost the cost that is separate from the postage fund, [{col;.2, lines 61-63}, accounting registers]; and

debiting the reconfiguration cost from adjusting the value of the account for replenishing the postage fund,, the value of the postage wherein a value fund in the franking apparatus being unaffected by the reconfiguration, [{col.2, lines 61-63}, accounting register].

**As Per Claim 68:**

Haines discloses the method wherein the franking apparatus is remotely reconfigured through a communication connection, [I/O port provides communication channel].

**As Per Claim 69:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the reconfiguration of the franking apparatus concerns at least a setting of feature options in the franking apparatus, [{.col.4, lines 25-28}, reconfigure to the desired options].

**As Per Claim 70:**

Haines discloses the method of wherein the reconfiguration of the franking apparatus concerns at least a version of a software component in the franking apparatus, [{fig 1{, feature software}].

**As Per Claim 71:**

Haines discloses the method storing information concerning a current configuration of the franking apparatus, [{{figure 1}}, memory].

**As Per Claim 72:**

Haines discloses the method comprising transmitting a menu to the franking apparatus for the reconfiguration thereof, the menu being generated based on the information, [{abstract}, validating information checked by data center].

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 6-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haines (US Patent No: 5,107, 455) in view of

Liana Obrea (US Patent No: 4, 785, 417) hereinafter referenced as Obrea.

**As Per Claim 6:**

Haines discloses a technique for reconfiguring an external device in communication with postage meters, but lacks a system wherein the information includes error checking information.

Obrea discloses a system wherein the information includes error-checking information, [{col. 2, lines 37-43}, program enters routine system checks appropriate operation is used for detecting the error source].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Haines method and system in conjunction with Obrea's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with external device in communication in junction with information includes error checking information, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

**As Per Claim 7:**

Haines discloses a technique for reconfiguring an external device in communication but lacks the system wherein the error checking information includes cyclic redundancy check (CRC) bits.

Obrea discloses a system wherein the error checking information includes cyclic redundancy check (CRC) bits, [{col.2, lines 43-51}, checked as many times as possible].

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Haines method and system in conjunction with Obrea's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with external device in communication in junction the error checking information includes cyclic redundancy check (CRC) bits, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

**As Per Claim 8:**

Haines discloses a technique for reconfiguring an external device in communication but lacks the system wherein the error checking information includes a checksum.

Obrea discloses a system wherein the error checking information includes a checksum, {[col.2, lines 43-51], checked as many times as possible}.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Haines method and system in conjunction with Obrea's system and method to emulate an invention that deals with external device in communication in junction the error checking information includes cyclic redundancy check (CRC) bits, which additionally verifies the products data and its origin.

**Conclusion**

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any concerns in regard to this communication, the examiner **Jon Bass** can be reached at **(571) 272-6905** between the hours of **9-6pm Monday through Friday**. The fax number for the establishment where the application is being process is **(571) 273-8300**.

If an attempt to reach the examiner is unsuccessful for any reason, the examiner's immediate supervisor, **John Hayes** can be reached at **(571) 272-6708**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished is available through Private PAIR only. For more

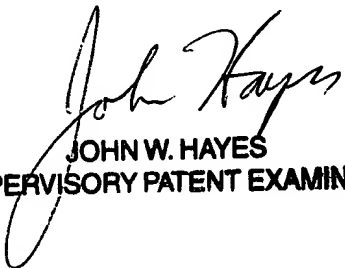
information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov).  
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free).

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

C/O Technology Center 3600

Washington, D.C. 20231

  
**JOHN W. HAYES**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**